05/25/2016

Incident: Avoid the 14 Ventura County Anti-DUI Campaign Memorial Day Holiday Weekend DUI Enforcement

Location: Throughout the City of Ventura

Date: Memorial Day Weekend, May 27 - May 30, 2016. DUI Checkpoint May 27, 8:00 p.m. - 3:00 a.m.

Officer(s) Involved: Ventura Police Department

Narrative:

Ventura, CA –To help save lives this holiday weekend, law enforcement from 14 agencies in Ventura County will be participating in the Avoid the 14 Anti-DUI Campaign to stop impaired drivers and save lives on our roadways. Officers will be conducting DUI/drivers license checkpoints and DUI saturation patrols countywide. Officers are targeting drunk or drugged drivers on this first holiday weekend of the summer driving season.

This weekend traditionally finds travelers heading to local parks or waterways for outdoor activities, along with family and friends gathering for backyard barbecues. It's also the time for college and high school graduation celebrations.

The DUI Task Force kicks off Friday, May 27, 2016, in the City of Ventura, between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 3:00 a.m. by deploying a DUI/Driver's License checkpoint and DUI Saturation Patrols. Additional DUI saturation patrols will be out on Saturday and Sunday nights. The California Highway Patrol and other law enforcement agencies throughout the County and State are deploying officers Memorial Day weekend onto freeways and county roads as part of their Maximum Enforcement Period.

Law enforcement is asking for everyone's support this holiday weekend and all summer long:

Plan ahead. Arrange rides home for your friends, family, co-workers and yourself before the drinking begins. Call a taxi or get a ride from Uber, Lyft or Curb.

Those hosting activities should limit drinks to your guests or patrons. Don't serve more than one or two over several hours.

Cut back on the amount of drinks you plan to bring to the gathering – and provide plenty of food.

If you see dangerous driving, Report Drunk Drivers - Call 9-1-1!

Recent statistics reveal that 30 percent of drivers in fatal crashes had one or more drugs in their systems. A study of active drivers showed more tested positive for drugs that may impair driving (14 percent) than did for alcohol (7.3 percent). Of the drugs, marijuana was most prevalent, at 7.4 percent, slightly more than alcohol. Everyone should be mindful that if you're taking medication – whether prescription or over-the-counter – drinking even small amounts of alcohol can greatly intensify impairment effects.

In addition to the Memorial Day DUI crackdown, law enforcement nationwide is looking to stop and ticket those who have failed to buckle up or secure young passengers. Remember Click It or Ticket!

Funding for the Avoid DUI Task Force is a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The Avoid Task Force will deploy checkpoints and DUI patrols next during the Independence Day Holiday and for the summer August/Labor Day DUI Mobilization.

The DUI / License checkpoint took place at the intersection of Seaward Ave. and Alessandro Dr. At the conclusion of the checkpoint, the results are as follows:

452 Vehicles through the checkpoint

416 Vehicles screened

9 Citations issued

7 Driving without license violations

1 Driving on a suspended license

1 Vehicle impounded

20 Field sobriety tests administered